(ग) क्या उक्त भवन के निर्माता को पूरा भुगतान किया जा चुका है ; और

(घ) क्या विभाग के सक्षम अधिकारी इस भवन का निरीक्षण कर चुके हैं, यदि हां, तो ऐसा निरीक्षण कब किया गया और किसने किया ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) 32.22 लाख रु० (बत्तीस लाख बाईस हजार रूपए)

(ख) दूरसंचार विभाग कार्य मई, 1988 में आरम्भ हुआ और जून, 1990 में पूरा हुआ। निर्माण के विभिन्न स्तरों पर कार्य की गुणवत्ता विभिन्न स्तरों के अधिकारियों द्वारा प्रमाणित की गई थी, यथा, कनिष्ठ इंजीनियर, सहायक इंजीनियर, कार्यपालक इंजीनियर।

(ग) जी हां ।

(घ) जी हां। विभाग के सक्षम अधिकारियों (जैसे, कनिष्ठ इंजीनियरों, सहायक इंजीनियरों, कार्यपालक इंजीनियरों और अधीक्षक इंजीनियरों) द्वारा समय-समय पर भवन का निरीक्षण किया गया।

Decrease in allocation of Telephone lines

98. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has informed MTNL about the decrease in the allocation of telephone lines to MTNL;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this; and

(c) what impact it would have on the waiting lists for telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Allocation of Telephone Exchanges to Delhi

99. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made 58 per cent reduction in allocation of telephone exchanges to Delhi during the current year; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Misdelivery and damage of postal articles

100. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that reporting of cases of misdelivery delay or damages of postal articles in transit are on continuous rise;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during the last three years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such cases are beyond the purview of the Consumer Protection Act; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring such cases under the Act and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Figures furnished in the statement (See below) for 1990-91 1991-92 and 1992-93 would show that this is not the position in general.

(c) and (d) Under the Indian Post Office Act, there is no liability on Government for the loss/misdelivery/delay/damage to postal articles except in so far as such liability is undertaken by Central Govt. in express terms. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has held that Consumer Protection Act,

1986 only provides additional means of obtaining remedy by the consumer but if the remedy is barred under the Post Office Act, then the various Forums constituted under the Act, cannot grant remedy prayed for. Therefore, the question of bringing such cases under the Consumer Protection Act does not arise.

Statement

Number of cases of Misdelivery/delay/damage to postal articles during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93.

Year	Number of complaints cases Received on account of		
	Delay	Loss/Misdelivery/ Wrong delivery	Abstraction/damage/ Misappropriation.
1990-91	1,05,117	14,568	984
1991-92	1,00,817	14,487	1486
1992-93	96,841	12,736	1251

Sanction of new HSG II posts in department of posts

101. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the new HSG II posts sanctioned for general line officials are to be upgraded to ASPOs grade as per order of DG (Posts) dated 22nd November, 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in 1987, 282 New HSG-II posts were sanctioned for general line and 141 new Postal sub-divisions were not upgraded and the authorities had to seek intervention of Central Administrative Tribunal to get these posts upgraded;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in Himachal Pradesh, 105 new HSG II posts were sanctioned w.e.f. Ist October, 1991 but the promotional benefits have not been conferred;

(d) whether it is also a fact that inspectors of Post Offices in H.P. have represented against this action of the Department; and

(e) if so, what steps are being taken to remove the resentment of the staff concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is correct that in 1987, 282 new HSG II posts were sanctioned for general line. Consequent upon an order passed by Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench on an application filed by the All India Association of Inspectors and Asstt. Superintendents of Post Offices, the Department has sanctioned, by upgradation, 141 posts of Assistant Superintendents on matching savings basis.

(c) 105 General Line officials have been given benefit of second promotion in Himachal Pradesh w.e.f. 1st October, 1991 in terms of Biennial Cadre Review (BCR) Scheme.

(d) Officials of Inspector of Post Offices cadre working in Himachal Pradesh have represented for upgradation of 52 Subdivisions to the level of Assistant Superintendents.

(e) While sanctioning posts in terms of Department of Posts orders dated 22-11-1979, the benefits extended to general line officials under the Biennial Cadre Review (BCR) Scheme are not taken into account for purpose of upgradation of Postal Sub-divisions to ASPOs grade.